

Message Text

SECRET

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S E C R E T PRETORIA 4541

NODIS - CHEROKEE

S/S PETER TARNOFF PLEASE PASS EYES ONLY TO THE SECRETARY
FROM LOW

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PDEV, PINT, RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: APPROACHING AN ALL PARTIES MEETING

1. I FEEL THERE IS NOW A DEFINITE CHANCE FOR AN ALL PARTIES MEETING LATER THIS MONTH BASED ON NKOMO'S INTEREST IN, AND THE PROBABILITY OF SMITH'S ACCEPTANCE OF, A MEETING NEXT WEEKEND (AUGUST 12-13) AND SMITH'S VERY POSITIVE ATTITUDE IN HIS MEETING SUNDAY WITH GRAHAM AND ME (SEPTTEL) IN WHICH HE MADE CLEAR HE THOUGHT AN ALL PARTIES MEETING SHOULD BE TRIED AND HE COULD GET HIS COLLEAGUES TO ATTEND.
2. THE LIKELIEST DATES FOR ALL PARTIES MEETING ARE AUGUST 19-22 (SMITH THINKS FOUR DAYS WILL BE NECESSARY). IT COULD SLIP A FEW DAYS BEYOND THAT, BUT SINCE IT NO LONGER HAS TO BE HELD OVER A WEEKEND, WE WOULD TRY TO KEEP AS CLOSE TO THOSE DATES AS POSSIBLE TO ALLOW YOU TO MAINTAIN YOUR END OF THE MONTH SCHEDULE. WE ALL BELIEVE YOUR PRESENCE IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT.
3. THE TROUBLE IS THAT WHETHER OR NOT THERE IS A CONFERENCE WILL NOW DEPEND ON A MEETING AT WHICH WE WILL NOT BE PRESENT AND ON WHICH WE WILL HAVE LITTLE INFLUENCE. HOWEVER, I KNOW OF NO WAY

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OF GETTING AROUND THAT.

4. WE WILL WANT TO CONSIDER HOW WE CAN BRING IN THE SOUTH AFRICANS. WE HAVE ALREADY SEEN THAT THIS WOULD BE RESENTED BY THE RHODESIANS BUT I BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE ATTEMPTED ANYWAY. PRESUMABLY NOTHING CAN BE DONE IN THIS REGARD UNTIL AFTER NEXT WEEKEND (12-13). THEN GRAHAM AND I COULD VISIT PRETORIA, OUR

AMBASSADORS COULD GO IN, OR A HIGH LEVEL MESSAGE COULD BE SENT.

5. IF WE GET THROUGH NEXT WEEKEND WITH A MEETING STILL ON, IT MIGHT BE ADVISABLE FOR ME TO RETURN TO LUSAKA TO HELP WITH ARRANGEMENTS ON THAT END WHILE JOHNNY HANDLES THEM HERE IN SALISBURY.

6. AS DICK MOOSE PREDICTED SOME TIME AGO, A DIFFICULT PROBLEM WILL PROBABLY DEVELOP AROUND MUZOREWA. WE STILL DO NOT KNOW WHAT NKOMO'S PRICE WILL BE BUT IT WILL CERTAINLY INVOLVE A POSITION OF PROMINENCE FOR HIM IF NOT ACTUAL LEADERSHIP. IN THE MEANTIME THE BISHOP'S POLITICAL POSITION INSIDE THE COUNTRY HAS BEEN STEADILY DETERIORATING. AT THE SAME TIME HIS INCREASINGLY FREQUENT PUBLIC ATTACKS ON NKOMO INDICATE AN AWARENESS AT LEAST OF THE GROWING CLAMOR FOR NKOMO'S RETURN. AT THE SAME TIME HIS KIND WORDS ABOUT MUGABE (BOTH TO CARL ROWAN AND TO THE RHODESIA PRESS HERE SATURDAY) MAY BE INTERPRETED AS A THREAT THAT HE COULD WALK OUT TO JOIN MUGABE IF NKOMO WERE IMPOSED. ARRANGEMENTS FOR ANY MEETINGS WHICH ARE HELD AND BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE WILL BE ASCRIBED TO GRAHAM AND ME WHATEVER THE ACTUAL US- 7(8,- INVOLVEMENT. WE WILL THEREFORE WANT TO BE VERY CAREFUL AS WE PROCEED TO BE CERTAIN THAT MUZOREWA IS OFFERED A FAIR POSITION IN WHATEVER ARRANGEMENT EMERGES -- INsofar AS WE ARE INVOLVED. ALSO, AS SOON AS A CONFERENCE DATE IS SET, IT MAY BE ADVISABLE TO SEND MUZOREWA'S FRIEND, TOM CURTIS, BACK TO RHODESIA.

EDMONDSON

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